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Message Text

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44
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 EB-11 INR-11 DRC-01

RSC-01 /062 W
---------- 001097
R 261137Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5197

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6894

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, NI, XA
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: SIMON LETTER

REF: STATE 155405

1. AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMED ON HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL, ACTUALLY LEAKED, BASIS THAT ON JULY 22 SHAGARI "TOOK A GLANCE" AT THE LETTER, DIRECTED THAT A ROUTINE REPLY BE PREPARED, AND DEPARTED FOR LONDON, WHERE HE WILL REMAIN MOST OF AUGUST. SHAGARI AND GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK ISONG HAD BEEN INFORMED BY OTHER AFRICANS OF LETTER'S EXISTENCE PRIOR TO EMBASSY'S DELIVERY ON JULY 19. INDEED, EACH HAS RECEIVED COPIES FROM ABIDJAN, RABAT, AND KINSHASA, APPARENTLY EVEN BEFORE JULY 19. CONTENTS WIDELY DISCUSSED WITHIN FMG AND BETWEEN FMG AND OTHER AFRICANS. PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT AMONG AFRICANS NOT TO BE RESPONSIVE BEFORE HOLDING THEIR OWN CAUCUS IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 29. SHAGARI'S OBJECTIONS (NOT ENTIRELY SHARED BY ISONG) TO THE SIMON PROPOSALS SAID TO BE (1) NO FURTHER GROUPS NEED BE CREATED TO CONSIDER DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS; (2) EVEN IF ANOTHER BODY IS DESIRABLE, LITTLE GOOD CAN GROW FROM EXTENSION OF COMMITTEE OF TWENTY; AND (3) AFRICANS SHOULD BE WARY OF SOURCE THIS PROPOSAL BECAUSE USG, ABETTED BY FRG, INSTRUMENTAL IN KILLING SDR-DEVELOPMENT LINK, WHICH SHAGARI REGARDS AS MOST USEFUL INSTRU-MENT.

2. WILL CONTINUE FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE BUT BELIEVE IT UNREALISTIC EXPECT SUBSTANTIVE LOCAL REACTION BEFORE SHAGARI'S RETURN, IF THEN.
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REINHARDT

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NNN

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